(c) by when Government propose to make arrangements for providing emergency lights at all the airports in the country so that sudden power failures do not cause inconvenience to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) At all the airports managed by International Airports Authority of India and National Airports Authority and served by Indian Airlines, standby generators are available to provide emergency light to meet minimum operational requirement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Transport contracts in Coal India Limited

1066. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to reduce the influence of monopolistic contractors in Coal India Limited by increasing the number of small contractors in transport business and supply of other essential items in order to provide livelihood to literate youths; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) and (b) All contractual jobs in the coal companies are awarded through the system of open tenders. To prevent the monopolistic tendencies among private contractors, jobs of internal transportation of coal and sand are being given to ex-servicemen companies sponsored by the Director General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence and cooperative societies sponsored by the District Administration. Such cooperatives cover also the weaker sections of the society. There are at present no schemes to give preference to literate youth in the award of transport contracts. In respect of essential store items, the coal companies consciously encourage ancillaries, SSI Units and small enterpreneurs, indirectly providing livelihood to literate youth.

Supply of coal to thermal power station

1067. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for coal linkages so that every thermal power station is linked to the nearest coal mine;

(b) whether Government propose to arrange for supply of coal with higher calorific value to thermal power stations located at far away places from the coal mines as in the case of Tamil Nadu State; and

(c) whether the Tamil Nadu Government have represented its difficulties in getting coal due to shortfall or production at Singareni Collieries; if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) Under the present arrangements thermal power stations are being linked to the nearest coal mines on long term basis by Standing Linkage Committee (Long term) subject to the quantity and quality of coal available, already existing linkages and transport logistics. Modifications in these long term linkages become necessary in short term due to variations in anticipated production and requirements.

(b) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Ronge Committee, which has suggested beneficiation of non-coking coal to be supplied to the power plants located over thousand K.Ms. away from the Coalfield. Kalinga mine cum beneficiation plant project has been planned for supply of beneficiated coal with higher calorific value to Tuticorin Extn. (4th and 5th units) and North Madras Stage-I

(3x210 MW) power stations in Tamil Nadu State.

(c) Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board (TNEB) have represented to the Ministry of Coal that Mettur Thermal Power Station should be allowed a linkage of 1 lakh tonnes per month from Singareni collieries. Because of shortfall in production in Singareni mines due to law and order and other problems, alternative arrangements have been made to supply coal to Mettur TPS from other sources by rail cum sea route.

Alternate Fuel

1068. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 328 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st December, 1990 and state:

(a) the recommendations of the inter fuel substitution committee to find out alternative fuels; and

(b) the follow up action taken on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The report of the Inter-fuel Substitution Committee has not been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Oil exploration in the Gulf of Mannar

1069. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are negotiating with Sri Lanka to finalise a contract for the joint oil exploration in the gulf of Mannar; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are being worked out.

New Technology for Tidal Power Generation

1070. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking action to acquire new technologies developed for generation of power rrom tidal waves at cheap rates; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) No specific proposal to acquire new technologies for generation of power from tidal waves at cheaper rates is under consideration of the Government at present. Investigations on Kachchh tidal project are being carried out by Central Electricity Authority.

Oil exploration in Cauvery Basin

1071. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry has presented a memorandum to the Central Government recently requesting to tap the oil resources in the Cauvery basin;

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) whether the production of oil from the Cauvery basin would lead to a foreign exchange saving?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Oil production has already been started from the Cauvery basin. Till March 1991, 0.552 million tonnes of crude oil had been produced from this basin.